

In the Claims:

1-18. (Canceled).

19. (New). A dry gas friction vacuum pump having a high-vacuum side and a fore-vacuum side, the pump comprising a housing (1); a rotatable rotor shaft arranged in the housing and having a high-vacuum side end and fore-vacuum side end; stationary pump-active components (14) and rotatable pump-active components (15) secured on the rotatable rotor shaft (4),

wherein the rotor shaft is supported with a permanent magnet bearing (5) at the high-vacuum-side end thereof and a bearing arrangement at the fore-vacuum side end thereof and

wherein fore-vacuum side end bearing arrangement contains at least one gas bearing.

20. (New). A dry gas friction vacuum pump according to claim 19, wherein bearing (6) for supporting the shaft radially and an axial bearing (7) for supporting the shaft axially and wherein both the radial and axial bearings are formed as gas bearings.

21. (New). A dry gas friction vacuum pump according to claim 19, wherein the bearing arrangement is formed as a module arranged and secured in a

cylindrically formed portion (11) of a pump housing provided at the fore vacuum side of the pump.

22. (New). A dry gas friction vacuum pump according to claim 19, further comprising a drive (9) for rotating the rotor, wherein the drive (9) is formed as a module and is arranged and secured in a cylindrically formed portion (11) of a pump housing provided at the fore-vacuum side.

23. (New). A gas friction pump according to claim 19, between the gas bearing and a low-pressure side, sealing means (10) is provided.

24. (New). A dry gas friction vacuum pump according to claim 19, further comprising a drive for rotating the rotor, wherein the fore-vacuum bearing arrangement contains a radial bearing (6) for supporting the shaft radially and an axial bearing (7) for supporting the shaft axially, wherein the radial bearing and the axial bearing form a first module and the drive forms a second module; and wherein the first and the second modules are mounted in a common sleeve, and the sleeve is received and secured in a cylindrically formed portion of a pump housing provided at the fore-vacuum side.